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**NEWS**

**For Immediate Release**

**LOUISIANA AUGUST 1 CROP PROSPECTS**

The August 1 crop prospects for Louisiana indicate that all major crop yields per acre will be up significantly from last year, with corn, rice, and sugarcane setting new record yields, according to Dave Frank, State Statistician for the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service. The following are prospects for the major crops:

**CORN** production is forecast at 52.1 million bushels, up 19 percent from a year ago. Acreage harvested for grain is forecast at 410,000, down 24 percent from 1998. Yield per acre at 127 bushels, is up 46 bushels from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record, when the record book on yield began in 1866.

**COTTON** production is forecast at 820,000 bales, up 28 percent from 1998. Acreage for harvest at 565,000 is 40,000 acres more than last year. Yield per acre at 697 pounds is 111 pounds more than in 1998.

**RICE** production at 31.6 million cwt. is up 12 percent from 1998. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 645,000, four percent above last year's figure. Yield per acre is forecast at 4,900 pounds per acre, 370 pounds more than in 1998. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record, when the record book on yield began in 1895.

**SORGHUM** production is forecast at 18.8 million bushels, compared to 7.5 million bushels last year. Acreage harvested for grain is forecast at 250,000, which is the highest acreage recorded since 1986, when 370,000 acres were harvested. Yield is forecast at 75 bushels per acre, an increase of 15 bushels from 1998.

**SOYBEAN** production is forecast at 30.3 million bushels, up 35 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 1,010,000, down six percent from 1998. Yield, forecast at 30 bushels per acre, 9 bushels more than in 1998.

**SUGARCANE** production for sugar and seed is forecast at 14.9 million net tons, up 25 percent from 1998. If realized, this will be the highest acreage, yield, and production ever recorded in the State. Yield per acre is forecast at 33 net tons, up 3.3 net tons from last year. Recording of acreage, yield, and production began in 1909.

**ALL HAY** production is forecast at 864,000 tons, up 19 percent from a year ago. Acreage for harvest is forecast at 360,000, up 30,000 acres from 1998. Yield at 2.4 tons per acre is up 0.2 tons from 1998.

**LOUISIANA CROP REPORT -- AUGUST 1, 1999**

CROP	LOUISIANA						UNITED STATES					
	ACRES FOR HARVEST		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION		ACRES FOR HARVEST		YIELD PER ACRE		PRODUCTION	
	IND. 1999	UNIT	FINAL 1998	AUG 1999	UNIT	AUG 1999	IND. 1999	UNIT	FINAL 1998	AUG 1999	UNIT	AUG 1999
Corn, (grain) 1/	thousand				thousand		thousand				thousand	
Upland Cotton	410	bushels	81	127	bushels	52,070	70,955	bushels	134.4	134.7	bushels	9,560,919
Rice	565	pounds	586	697	bales	820	13,216	pounds	619	641	bales	17,636
Sorghum (grain)	645	pounds	4,530	4,900	cwt.	31,605	3,575	pounds	5,669	5,993	cwt.	214,237
Soybeans	250	bushels	60	75	bushels	18,750	8,499	bushels	67.3	69.2	bushels	587,967
Sugarcane (sugar & seed)	1,010	bushels	21	30	bushels	30,300	73,261	bushels	38.9	39.2	bushels	2,869,519
Hay, All	450	net	29.7	33.0	net tons	14,850	973	net tons	36.6	37.7	net tons	36,623
	360	tons	2.2	2.4	tons	864	62,051	tons	2.52	2.59	tons	160,769

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